

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 20, 2009 – 5:00p.m.

Mayor's Reception Room

Room 405, 4th Floor City Hall

Commissioners Present: Michele Gordon; Ricky DeFoe; Tony LaDeaux; Ron Boshey; Warner Wirta; Donna Ennis; Bea Kitto;

Commissioners Absent: Renee Van Nett; Dr. Joy Dorscher;

Excused: Toni Dickenson;

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Introductions

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair, Ricky DeFoe at 5:00 p.m. Motion to approve the agenda made by Donna Ennis and seconded by Michele Gordon. All commissioners voted to approve the agenda unanimously.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from the March 16, 2009 Meeting

Motion made by Donna Ennis to approve the minutes as amended and seconded by Bea Kitto. Ricky DeFoe abstained. Motion passed by commissioners to approve the minutes. Michele Gordon explained that she had deleted the minutes and had to redo them by memory with help from Donna Ennis. Missing were two places of who made motions and who seconded them. Commissioner Ron Boshey filled in these gaps, by remembering that he and Donna Ennis had motioned and seconded on both issues. (Approval of Agenda and of the past month's minutes). Thus, the minutes were then complete.

3. Community Public Forum/ Open Public Comment Period

No public speakers this evening. (Co-Chair, Ricky DeFoe, explained our new guideline of speakers being allowed no longer than 5 minutes time for their comments.)

4. Old Business

(Co-Chair, Ricky DeFoe, explained the new guideline that speakers must first be recognized by the Chair and only Commission members may speak to the issue unless recognized by the chair.)

A. AICHO's Gimaajii (YWCA Housing/ Indian Center) written project report (available at the meeting) – Sherry Sanchez-Tibbetts and Keith Hamre

Keith Hamre presented a written report from AICHO's Sherry Sanchez-Tibbetts. Sherry Sanchez-Tibbetts was present to explain the report that was presented to commissioners. (See Attached report). Ms. Sanchez-Tibbetts also explained the project in full, for those who were not aware of it and of how things are going now.

Sherry Sanchez-Tibbetts is also working with Fondulac and with Red Lake's Urban office to hire Native people for the construction work.

Ron Boshey offered to sit with AICHO if they meet with Bois Forte officials regarding fundraising matters. Sherry Sanchez-Tibbetts agreed to invite Ron Boshey if there is a meeting of this sort with Bois Forte.

Housing applications will begin June of 2010. D.W. Jones is the housing project manager where applications will be accepted. Housing First model will be used, and barriers will be looked at in regard to what has kept people from housing in the past. Felonies that are violent will be one area that will not be accepted.

Sherry Sanchez-Tibbetts passed out a notice for a Housing Conference, coming up in June at Black Bear in Carlton, MN. June 1st thru the 3rd of 2009. Keith Hamre shared that lead paint abatement also needs to happen and bids are being taken now for this. Relocation of people that had to be moved out is also happening. Funding has been provided for the residential area. Support for operating the center is also being looked at currently. Next months things should be in place regarding the construction. The commissioners were invited to come and walk through the building to see the progress and work happening. (They just need to call first). There has been much support from many agencies and Reservation Nations.

B. Civilian Review Board report – Sub-committee report – Tony LaDeaux

Tony LaDeaux was unable to attend the last meeting on April 17th. He shared that the bidding process is important, as is the funding issue. He shared that he and Ricky DeFoe and Lyn Clark Pegg visited the twin cities to see their Citizen's Review Board, and he does not feel that type of board used there will work here in Duluth. He shared there is a case going on there that the review board there cannot do anything with, since it has "no teeth". Tony shared he does not feel comfortable with where the "board is at". He shared we have to keep in mind how this is going to affect people in the future, not just today. He sees the Minneapolis board as being external and not strong enough to deal with issues. He wants to see something that is going to help the community. Every city is different, explained Mr. LaDeaux. Each Police chief will handle things differently as well. Victims are asking, "why can't there be something done", according to Mr. LaDeaux. Every Review Board has run into resistance, according to Mr. LaDeaux. There is not enough information right now to put the review board together, according to Mr. LaDeaux. He believes that a study is needed first, before policies and resolutions can be

developed. Co-chair Ricky DeFoe aligned with Mr. LaDeaux on the issue that the larger community committee not go further until the study is done. Donna Ennis, who was at the last meeting of the larger committee on April 17th, shared that a request for proposal will be sent out regarding doing a study to qualified persons. The JDAI statistics were shared with the committee as well. If funding for the RFP, (Request for Proposals), could be obtained, then a study could be done, maybe with Aileen Luna. RFP's would be put out and anyone could bid on doing this study. Tony LaDeaux shared he hopes the same mistakes won't be made as the Minneapolis group has made with their review board. Warner Wirta shared he has some information that might be helpful regarding funding for this study. However, he did not have this information with him tonight. He will be sending this to Tony LaDeaux by mail, he said. \$40,000 to \$60,000 is the price that is being looked at for this study to happen. Tony LaDeaux asked about what the commissioners felt about the core sub-group and letting the community know more about it. Tony LaDeaux was asked if he gives community members information on what is happening at the meetings. He shared he does do this, but he is contacted by more victims than anything. Donna Ennis passed out an agenda from one meeting, and Michele Gordon encouraged those present from the community to contact Tony LaDeaux, Ricky DeFoe and Donna Ennis if they want to know what is happening at those meetings. Warner Wirta shared that he believed we started out for a CRB for Indians only, and now he sees it expanding to other minorities. He shared that he feels this could be becoming "top-heavy" and to keep it down to an acceptable point. He wonders if things will get done if it becomes too "top-heavy". This is why Tony LaDeaux feels that a study is needed. Donna Ennis explained that the review board was begun by Indian people, but it was never meant to only represent Indian people; but all people. Donna will bring the agenda and the minutes to this commission meeting, she shared. Ron Boshey asked how to get the word out to the community, regarding the citizen or community review board. Warner Wirta mentioned that he feels the subpoena power is an important part of a citizen or community review board.

Community member Bill Morrison asked who chooses the commission members to sit on this Commission. He shared he was rejected by the Mayor after he applied to sit on this commission. He was encouraged to take his complaint back to the mayor. It was explained to Mr. Morrison that the Mayor appoints the Commissioners to this Commission.

Brad Clifford shared that on the 26th, there were over a hundred people gathered at Holy Family Church, talking about issues of the Citizen's Review Board and this DAIC Commission. He thinks there needs to be more information to help form community and give more awareness to the Citizens Review Board.

Donna Ennis shared that the committee is aware that there is disagreement in the community, and that in the end there needs to be one united idea to move forward with.

Mike (Community Member) asked if meetings that have to do with the CRB, could be put in the Commission agenda so he could get this in the mail with the agenda.

5. New Business

A. Mental Health and CD issues – Sub-committee report – Michele Gordon

Michele Gordon shared a letter that she received from Hazelden, recruiting Native people who might want to go through their educational program to become Master's level CD counselors. She will be sending the letter she received to the Commissioners and to Bill Morrison, who requested this.

B. Commission training; Decision making process and procedures – Keith Hamre

Keith Hamre shared the importance of some commission training that he could provide. We are appointed by the Mayor and accepted by the City Council. Our meetings are public and open to the public. Sub committee meetings are also to be open and shared with the public. Discussion was held between the Commissioners, and Donna Ennis offered to host a gathering for the Commissioners at her office to share and process what our role is. Warner suggested we have our next forum at the Indian Campground, near the beginning of the Munger Trail. Donna Ennis will be hosting the meeting for the Commissioners training, which will be at Noon, on the day of our next meeting, which is May 18th, a Monday. We will meet until 4:30 that day and then be at this Commission meeting by 5:00pm. Keith Hamre will have someone to facilitate this meeting.

Keith Hamre announced that Linda Grover declined becoming a commissioner, and now we cannot get a new commissioner until next March, 2010.

6. Announcements, Upcoming Events and Comments from Commission Members

Warner Wirta: offered two suggestions to the commission: He suggested that the chair-persons have cell phones so we can reach them wherever they are. He also suggested that in the June meeting, John LaForge talk about the Barrels in Lake Superior. Warner will invite John LaForge to the June Meeting.

Bea Kitto: she shared she is on the sub-committee of Housing, but does not know what is going on. Ron Boshey said he would invite her to the sub-committee meetings. Bea was also given a list of numbers to reach other commissioners.

Ron Boshey: Ron shared he has nothing to say. Nothing new.

Tony LaDeaux: More stuff is going on in the schools; school system is closed off, as it always has been; doesn't know what more we can do; feels like our hands are

being tied; big question is what can the community do; we have resources, but what can the community do?

Donna Ennis: Nothing really to report;

Michele Gordon: Pow-wow notice on Saturday and Sunday the 2nd and 3rd of May, hosted by local colleges at Central High School. Grand Entries at noon and 7pm and a feast at 5pm on the 2nd; grand entry at noon on the 3rd, Sunday.

Ricky DeFoe: Shared that it will be good to get the training and have the get-together as commissioners on the 18th of May. Shared disappointment that there were not more people at the JDAI conference held recently. Sees that there is a lot of work to do, and he wants to help anyway that he can.

Bill Morrison, Community member, invited the Commissioners and the public to a Potluck at his agency tomorrow night at 6pm. Red Lake Advisory office.

7. Next Meeting/ Date/ Location

Monday, May 18, 2009 – 5:00p.m.

Mayor's Reception Room, #405, 4th Floor, City Hall

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Donna Ennis and seconded by Ron Boshey; All voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by;

Michele M. Gordon, Secretary